


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended):


 A device for sealing a rotatable shaft and a fixed housing, said device comprising an annular stator and an annular rotor, said stator having a seal means for forming a seal with said housing, said rotor having a seal means for forming a seal with said shaft, said rotor and said stator each having contact faces, said device having a means to ~~mechanically couple~~ for mechanically coupling said rotor to said stator and for permitting ~~so that~~ said rotor ~~moves~~ to move axially independently of said stator ~~for~~ within a predetermined range of separation between said rotor and said stator within said mechanical coupling, ~~and once said predetermined range is exceeded, said rotor axial movement is coupled to said stator axial movement,~~ and at least one magnet urging said rotor contact face to re-engage said stator contact face during said separation ~~faces together to form a seal when said stator and said rotor contact faces are in contact.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended):

A device for sealing a rotatable shaft and a fixed housing, said device comprising an annular stator and an annular rotor, said stator having a seal means for forming a seal with said housing, said rotor having a seal means for forming a seal with said shaft, said rotor and said stator each having contact faces, said device having a means to ~~mechanically couple~~ for mechanically coupling said stator and said rotor ~~to allow~~ and for permitting said rotor to axially slide along said shaft within said mechanical coupling,

and at least one magnet urging said rotor contact face to re-engage said stator contact face
during said axial sliding of said rotor faces together to form a seal when said stator and
said rotor contact faces are in contact.

Claim 3 (currently amended):

 A The device according to claim 1 where said means ~~to mechanically couple~~ for
mechanically coupling includes an interlocking flange and annular groove, said flange
positioned on one of said rotor or said stator, said annular groove positioned on the other
of said rotor or said stator.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

A The device according to claim 3 where said annular groove is positioned on said stator
and said flange is positioned on said rotor.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

A The device according to claim 3 where said annular groove is positioned on said rotor
and said flange is positioned on said stator.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended):

A device for sealing a rotatable shaft and a fixed housing, said device comprising an
annular stator and an annular rotor, said stator having a seal means for forming a seal
with said housing, said rotor having a seal means for forming a seal with said shaft, said
rotor and said stator each having contact faces, said device having a an annular groove

B1 positioned on one of said stator or said rotor, and a flange positioned on the other of said stator or said rotor, wherein said annular groove and said flange co-operating are engaged with one another to mechanically couple said rotor to said stator, and wherein said engagement establishes a predetermined distance within which said rotor may move so that said rotor moves axially independently of said stator for a predetermined range and once said predetermined range is exceeded, said rotor axial movement is coupled to said stator axial movement, and at least one magnet urging said rotor contact face to re-engage said stator contact face during movement of said rotor ~~faces together to form a seal between said stator and said rotor when said contact faces are in contact.~~

Claim 10 (original):

A device according to claim 1 having a plurality of magnets.

Claim 11 (original):

A device according to claim 3 wherein said flange and said annular groove have substantially complementary cross-sectional profiles.

Claim 12 (currently amended):

A The device according claim 2, wherein said rotor slides along said shaft to accommodate unlimited axial shaft movement ~~underneath~~ within said rotor.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (new):

B2 The device according to claim 1, wherein said rotor is constructed substantially of a semi-flexible heat-resistant material.

Claim 16 (new):

The device according to claim 2, wherein said rotor is constructed substantially of a semi-flexible heat-resistant material.

Claim 17 (new):

The device according to claim 1, wherein said means for mechanically coupling said rotor to said stator forms a labyrinth.

Claim 18 (new):

The device according to claim 2, wherein said means for mechanically coupling said rotor to said stator forms a labyrinth.
